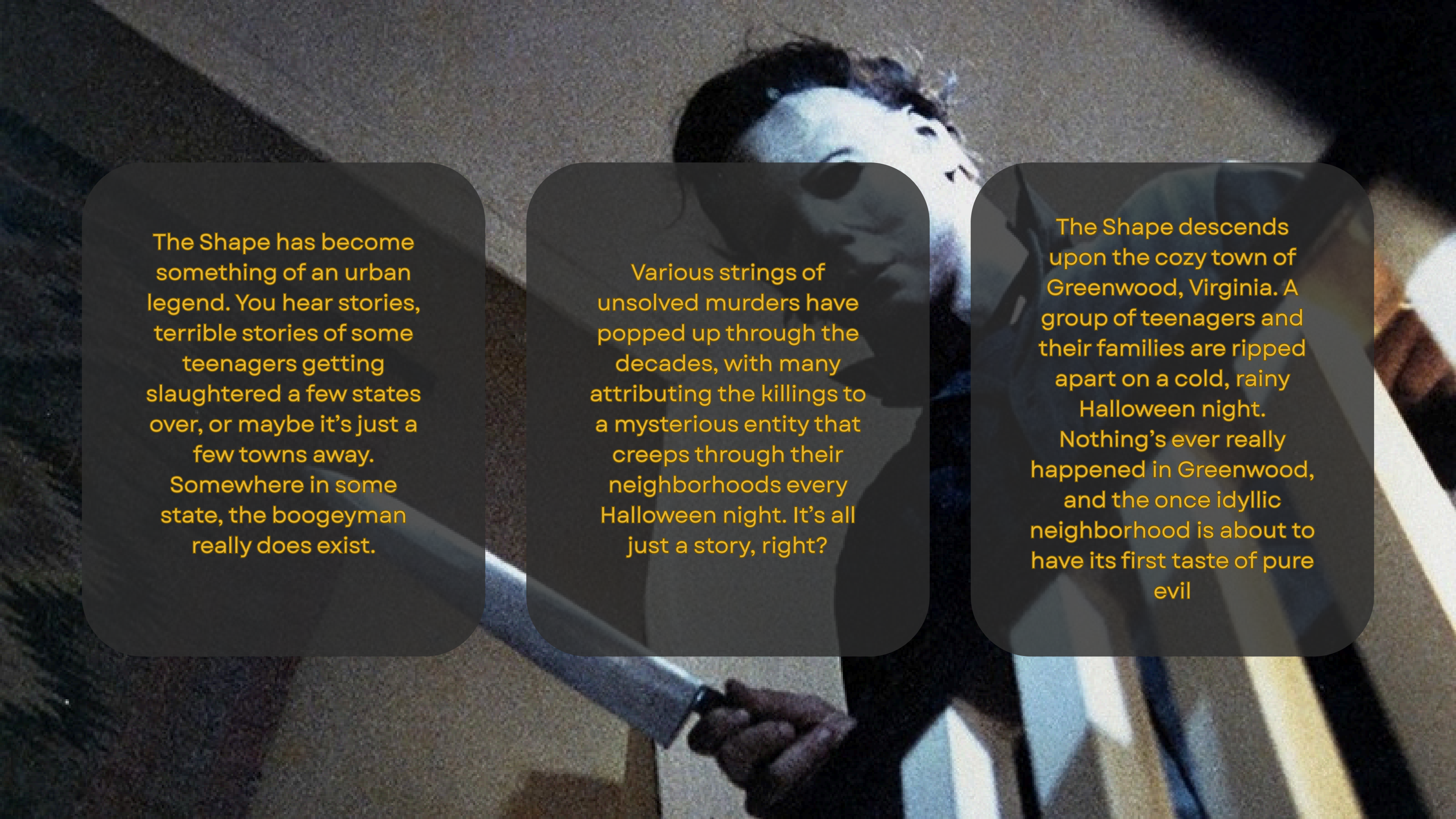




# HALLOWEEN RETURNS

THE SHAPE HAS BECOME AN  
URBAN LEGEND, AND A SLEEPY  
VIRGINIA TOWN COMES FACE  
TO FACE WITH PURE EVIL

A Horror Film Pitch  
by Bee Delores



The Shape has become something of an urban legend. You hear stories, terrible stories of some teenagers getting slaughtered a few states over, or maybe it's just a few towns away.

Somewhere in some state, the boogeyman really does exist.

Various strings of unsolved murders have popped up through the decades, with many attributing the killings to a mysterious entity that creeps through their neighborhoods every Halloween night. It's all just a story, right?

The Shape descends upon the cozy town of Greenwood, Virginia. A group of teenagers and their families are ripped apart on a cold, rainy Halloween night. Nothing's ever really happened in Greenwood, and the once idyllic neighborhood is about to have its first taste of pure evil

# WHAT IS HALLOWEEN RETURNS?

It lives within the same spiritual realm as John Carpenter's seminal classic

It's neither a sequel nor a remake

**Only three things connect it to the 1978 film:**

- Pumpkin opening credits
- "Halloween" theme
- Classic look of The Shape

# THE HALLOWEEN FRANCHISE LACKS IMAGINATION

Evil doesn't die. It changes shape. And it's long overdue for the franchise to change shape itself

We need to let go of the nostalgia that's holding back the franchise. That's why "Halloween Ends" works as well as it does. It wasn't afraid to push forward into interesting directions

Say goodbye to Laurie Strode. "Halloween Resurrection" tried and failed spectacularly to introduce new characters for us to root for

# RACE IN HORROR & HALLOWEEN

The history of Blackness in horror is a grim reality we need to continue facing

**Horror Noire: A History of Black Horror** captures why representation matters in a genre like horror

Since 2019, many Black directors have crashed through the glass ceiling - Nia DaCosta, Nikyatu Jusu, Remi Weekes, and Gerard McMurray

Black characters have been seriously lacking in the Halloween franchise, as well as Latinx representation

There's only one Black leading character in the entire series: Busta Rhymes as Freddie in "Halloween Resurrection."

## Black actors in minor roles:

LL Cool J ("Halloween H20: Twenty Years Later")

Jibrail Nantambu ("Halloween" (2018))

Carmela McNeal ("Halloween Kills")

Michael Smallwood ("Halloween Kills")

Keraun Harris ("Halloween Ends")

Omar Dorsey ("Halloween" (2018), "Halloween Kills," "Halloween Ends")

# THE CHARACTERS & MAIN CAST



## Blair Emerson - Jenna Ortega

- 22-year-old student of physical therapy at Greenwood College
- Makes extra money babysitting
- She's obsessed with urban legends and stumbles upon a podcast that covers various myths and folklore, including a story about The Shape
- She has a 17-year-old sister

## Mia Waters - Melissa Barrera

- She's married to James, and they adopted two kids, Elio (10) and Emilia (8), as she can't physically have kids of her own.
- Greenwood doesn't offer many economic opportunities, so she works in home and health insurance
- She has the prettiest green thumb. She's always connecting with the earth through nature, and her yard is the envy of the whole neighborhood

## Jo Lancaster - Keke Palmer

- She's a tennis coach at the local high school and is having an affair with the football coach
- She's trapped in a loveless marriage but plans to file for a divorce any day now
- She can play a mean game of charades and always mops the floor with her competition

# SECONDARY CHARACTERS & CAST

**Tyriq Withers** (“Him,” “I Know What You Did Last Summer” (2025)) as Jake

**Kaitlyn Dever** (“No One Will Save You”) as Rebecca

**Morgan Davies** (“Evil Dead Rise”) as Stephen

**Ella Baliska** (“Run Sweetheart Run”) as Veronica

**Bella Heathcote** (“Relic”) as Sasha

**James Morosini** (“It’s What’s Inside”) as Andrew

**Georgina Campbell** (“Barbarian”) as Steph

**Kue Lawrence** (“Marshmallow”) as Elio

**Kai Cech** (“Marshmallow”) as Emilia

**Josh Segarra** (“Scream VI”) as James

Unknown Actor as The Shape

# ESSENTIAL STORY BEATS

- A major thunderstorm rolls into the area around 8 pm. It swells and rages, and knocks out the power and even the closest cell phone tower, throwing reliable cell phone service out the window
- As weather forecasters advise the public to stock up on crucial household products, the local grocery store is mobbed

- Blair has an early afternoon dentist appointment to fix a crown, and there's an offhand exchange between another patient waiting to get a root canal. The brief conversation foreshadows Blair's confrontation with The Shape in the finale, during which she endures a broken arm and accompanying fingers, a cracked tibia, and a bleeding nose/busted lip.
  - "Are root canals that painful?" asks Cliff, flipping through a copy of National Geographic.
  - "I don't know," she replies, not looking up from her phone. "I have a pretty high tolerance for pain."
- The last scene is The Shape walking off into the heavy November morning fog and vanishing. Only its breathing can still be heard as the screen fades to black.

# CHASE SCENES

We haven't had a truly satisfying chase scene since the original "I Know What You Did Last Summer" with Helen Shivers' epic chase

My biggest criticism of David Gordon Green's "Halloween" trilogy is the lack of a damn good chase

Alysson's in "Halloween" (2018) and Lindsay's in "Halloween Kills" were far too short

**In "Halloween Returns," there would be:**

2-3 minor chase scenes, involving Veronica, Stephen, and Andrew

One super-ultra chase scene with Blair running from a house after discovering the dead body of Jake, her college classmate

The Shape steps out from the shadows. She then runs out the back door and through several backyards, weaving between flapping sheets on clothes lines and a neighbor's renovation project

# THE KILLS

How gruesome do you get?

The trouble here is expectation and how we've all become pretty desensitized to violence and gore

There would be **only 2-3 truly graphic onscreen kills** to scratch the carnage candy itch. Kills would involve items/devices such as a tennis racket, a corkscrew, and an oscillating fan

All other kills are either off-screen or fall more in line with the original film

A ton of stabbing, strangulation, and tamer kills with everyday household items

# CONCLUSION

Let's get back to a simple story with character-driven action

“Halloween Returns” is an opportunity for the franchise to both get back to its roots and push forward into the future

Make The Shape Scary Again!